

Message

From: Vranka, Joe [vranka.joe@epa.gov]
Sent: 10/18/2017 2:14:57 PM
To: Hestmark, Martin [Hestmark.Martin@epa.gov]
CC: Moler, Robert [Moler.Robert@epa.gov]; Murray, Bill [Murray.Bill@epa.gov]; Smidinger, Betsy [Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Westside Priority Soils--Butte, MT New Information--New Questions
Attachments: FW: Address Westside Priority Soils OU—Butte, Montana--Now

Yes. See the attached email from Robert to Dr. Ray.

From: Hestmark, Martin
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2017 7:26 AM
To: Vranka, Joe <vranka.joe@epa.gov>; Moler, Robert <Moler.Robert@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Westside Priority Soils--Butte, MT New Information--New Questions

Have we responded to Mr. Ray re this and his email of last Wednesday?

From: John Ray [mailto:bodinman2003@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, October 13, 2017 5:44 AM
To: Thomas, Deb <thomas.debrah@epa.gov>; Archer, Allie <Archer.Allie@epa.gov>; Greene, Nikia <Greene.Nikia@epa.gov>; Vranka, Joe <vranka.joe@epa.gov>; Hestmark, Martin <Hestmark.Martin@epa.gov>; Breen, Barry <Breen.Barry@epa.gov>; Tom Livers <tlivers@mt.gov>; Woolford, James <Woolford.James@epa.gov>; Elsen, Henry <Elsen.Henry@epa.gov>; Stalcup, Dana <Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov>; Crossland, Ronnie <Crossland.Ronnie@epa.gov>; Stavnes, Sandra <Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov>; Bohan, Suzanne <bohan.suzanne@epa.gov>; Moler, Robert <Moler.Robert@epa.gov>; Opekar, Kimberly <Opekar.Kimberly@epa.gov>; Smidinger, Betsy <Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov>; jchambers@mt.gov
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Subject: Westside Priority Soils--Butte, MT New Information--New Questions

I have been recently informed by EPA that the agency intends to begin the remedial investigation phase of the Westside Priority Soils OU in Butte in 2018.

While this may be progress of a kind, much remains unanswered and of concern. Saying that the process will begin in 2018 is somewhat nebulous and tentative. What does begin the process mean? EPA has been talking about beginning the process for years and nothing has been done. Why should the public expect things to be different now?

The biggest concern is: How long will it take to cleanup Westside Priority Soils? Will it take thirty years? Forty years? Is it possible to expedite the process?

If the contaminants in Westside Priority Soils are a threat to human health and the environment, this time frame is unacceptable. For example, it is probable that attic dust contamination and yard contamination with arsenic and lead is present in the Westside Priority Soils site. Currently, the Residential Metals Abatement Program is effectively addressing such contamination on the Butte Hill. If we wait thirty or forty years to address contamination in Westside Soils, will RMAP still be functioning to do the cleanup? Is it not possible to speed up the cleanup process for Westside Soils?

More specifically, the following still needs to be done by EPA:

1. Clearly and immediately delineate the boundaries of Westside Priority Soils.
2. Immediately select and announce a project manager for the site.
3. Identify the potentially responsible parties for the site.
4. Conduct an expedited but comprehensive remedial investigation of contaminants.
5. Conduct an expedited but comprehensive risk assessment.
6. **Immediately fully extend the RMAP program to Westside Soils.**
7. Aggressively use expedited response actions.
8. Conduct an aggressive public education and public involvement program at the site.

As I have said before, it makes no sense to attempt to cleanup part of Butte. It is hard to fathom how the EPA could have let Westside Soils slip through the cracks. If, although unlikely, contamination is not a problem for Westside Soils, that would be good to know. If, however, contamination with lead and arsenic is a problem, as seems likely, it needs to be addressed now. EPA's lethargy seems hard to understand.

Dr. John W. Ray, Butte